



Save-the-Redwoods League

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HISTORIC MENDOCINO FAMILY RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS 150 YEARS LATER TO DEDICATE REDWOOD GROVE

MENDOCINO – On Sunday July 3rd, 2005, one hundred fifty years later, the Simpson family returns to its Mendocino roots when it dedicates a redwood grove honoring Robert B. Simpson in Big River State Park. Robert B. Simpson is a descendant of one of Mendocino's first settlers.

Simpson's generous gift to Save-the-Redwoods League will be celebrated by family members who are coming from around the world. The Save-the-Redwoods League is a non-profit dedicated to preserving ancient forests so that all generations can experience the inspiration and majesty of these towering giants.

Big River State Park was established in 2002 with the purchase of 7,300 acres, protecting the entire lower estuary of the Big River and the redwood forests on the surrounding slopes. The League was instrumental in supporting and contributing to the purchase which was spearheaded by the Mendocino Land Trust.

Saving the redwoods is critical work. In 1850, there were nearly 2 million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, only 4% remain. More than 6 out of every 10 acres of protected redwoods in California state parks have been preserved through the League's work. Through land purchase and advocacy, the League has assisted in the preservation of hundreds of thousands of acres of redwood forest.

Simpson family members attending the dedication of this important grove include the descendants of John Pendleton Simpson. John Pendleton Simpson was born in Chautauqua, New York in 1822. He died in 1884 and is buried in the Laytonville Cemetery in Mendocino County.

John Pendleton Simpson came across the United States in a covered wagon in his early teens, via Texas and Mexico, and settled in California. He traveled to Mendocino around 1849 and was one of the first settlers in the area. He was instrumental in building the town of Cahto. He worked in

Mendocino County before moving to San Francisco, where he was an active member of the Howard Hook and Ladder Company.

Mr. Simpson married Mary Kennedy from New York, whose family was originally from Tipperary, Ireland. They had four children. Edmund Evan Simpson was born in San Francisco in 1870. He married Elisabeth Mary Gluck from Hornberg, Germany. For years he was the secretary of the Crocker Estate in San Francisco. They had two sons. Edmund Evan Simpson, Jr. was born in 1912 and Robert Bertram Simpson was born in 1914.

Edmund Evan Simpson, Jr. was a medical student at McGill University and married Verla Donnen Kennedy in Montreal in 1939. They had three children: John Evan Simpson, Catherine Simpson Majestic, and Margaret Anne Simpson Tramosch.

Robert Bertram Simpson traveled the world as a merchant marine. He owned an ice cream parlor in Redwood City and later enjoyed a hobby of owning race horses in Southern California. Long a conservationist, he greatly admired the redwood groves of Northern California, and donated his estate to the Save-the-Redwoods League.

The descendants of John Simpson include the three children of Robert B. Simpson's brother, and their extended families. Included in this gathering are John Evan Simpson of St. John's, Newfoundland, as well as Catherine Simpson Majestic and her husband Martin Majestic, their daughters Megan Majestic, and Jennifer Stanton. Jennifer Stanton will be accompanied with her husband David Stanton, and their children Allison and Jack, all from Lafayette, California. Martin's sister Marian Majestic will come from Pollock Pines, California. Also attending will be Margaret Anne Simpson Tramosch and her husband Bill Tramosch, and their daughters Emma and Molly, from Wellington, New Zealand. Finally, long-time family friend Sharron Brockman from Sacramento as well as many dear family friends will also attend.

Since 1918, Save-the-Redwoods League has led efforts to protect the ancient coast redwood and giant sequoia in California from logging and development. The League is the only organization working throughout the entire redwood range to protect the serenity and grandeur of these ancient forests.

www.savetheredwoods.org

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